

**Consideration of the dedication of an addition to Donaldson's Woods Nature Preserve, Lawrence County**

The addition to Donaldson's Woods Nature Preserve is being dedicated in honor of Fr. Damian Schmelz, a former member of the Natural Resources Commission, and a plant ecologist who has studied Donaldson's Woods and documented its changes over a 5 decade period. The proposed nature preserve addition is a 76.90-acre property located within the boundaries of Spring Mill State Park, near Mitchell, Indiana.

The proposed addition would add 76.9 acres to the existing 67 acre Donaldson's Woods Nature Preserve. The addition contains some of the original old growth virgin forest not included in the original nature preserve, and two entrances to the Donaldson Cave system, one of Indiana's most significant cave systems.

The tract is owned and is under the administration of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks and Reservoirs. The parking lot and access to Twin Caves are excluded from the area being dedicated.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves Exhibit A: map indicating the location and boundaries of the proposed addition to the nature preserve.

Nature Preserves Exhibit A  
Addition to Donaldson's Woods Nature Preserve

County: Lawrence

USGS Map: Mitchell

Size: 76.9 Acres

Ownership: IDNR State Parks and Reservoirs

